301
*564 silver earrings called kalluvechcha kadukkan which means an earring set with stone (pushyarâgam—topaz).

(1) Three plain golden rings on ring finger of left hand, the same on the little finger of the same hand, and a thin iron ring on the ring finger of the right hand.

[302] (2) Sandal paste patch over glabella; four stripes of the same on chest; three vertical stripes on each upper arm.

(3) Three golden earrings—the usual kadukkans—
[789] in each ear. An amulet in a silver cylindrical case worn on the waist. Inside the case is a charm written on a copper leaf. It is to protect its wearer against the influences of the evil eye.

(4) One tambâk, one plain gold ring on ring finger of the right hand.

[304] (5) Ears pierced. Wears no earrings as he has no money. A dab of sandal paste over the glabella, another over the sternum, and on each shoulder.

● 163 *Prolificness.*—The clan being endogamous, it will be
*564 well to note here the number of children born in 16 families of those examined. In all there were born 44 male and 35 female children; altogether 79. This gives an average of 4·9 in each family; and of those there were living at the time an average of 4·6 for each family. A figure which is above the average for the Nâyars as a body, be it noted.

141 It is perhaps scarcely worth noting that the average weight of four men was 119 lb.

Names of some of those examinad.

613

	Taravâd.		Name.		Occupation.		Age.
*564	Mêlapalli	... ...	Kêlu Nâyar ...	...	Cooly	... ...	22
463	Kanjôli	... ...	Râman Nâyar	...	Writer	... ...	22
	Kurundottathil	... ...	Krishnan Nâyar	...	Do.	... ...	20
551	Puthukûdi	... ...	Achutan Nâyar	...	Trade	... ...	22
	Ponmilli	... ...	Krishnan Nâyar	...	Do.	... ...	45
115	Kuttakil	... ...	Râman Nâyar	...	Cooly	... ...	32
	Payarvîtil	... ...	Aiyappen Nâyar	...	Mason	... ...	36
	Pûvakunial	... ...	Châthu Nâyar	...	Cultivator		... 26
	Kalathil	... ...	Shangaran Nâyar	...	Cooly	... ...	25
	Korolath	... ...	Shangunni Nâyar	...	Do.	... ...	22
	Pallithotathil	... ...	Gôpalan Nâyar	...	Nothing	... ...	22
	Kûtakkil	... ...	Râman Nâyar	...	Cooly	... ...	30
	Thondil	... ...	Appa Nâyar	...	Writer	... ...	20

551 Thondi or Thundi was, I think, mentioned by one of the ancient geographers as a port near where this last man lived. This man, therefore, bears the name of the place as it was, probably, in the days of Ptolemy.

6:Fawcett G-5 (ca. 1900)1915
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142 *564 *Colour of the skin* (*Broca's colour types*).—The fairest was No. 40 (one only); and the two next fairest were 30 to 44 and 39 to 44. The darkest was 43. The average seems to be a little darker than 29 but not so dark as 28. Darker than the Kiriyattil.

Colour of the eyes (Broca).—The colour of the eyes of half the number was as No. 1, and that of the other half as No. 2. One exception was between Nos. 1 and 10. The average therefore is a dark brown; not black.

*301 564 [304] *Ornaments.*—Ears pierced, and the usual earrings (kadukkans) worn by those who can afford them. In one case the earrings were set with a red stone. The ornaments or adornments of various individuals were as follows:—

(1) Bell metal ring on the ring finger of right hand.

(2) Two brass rings on ring finger of right hand. A string of wool thrice round the right wrist to keep off fever at night.

(3) Tattooed circular mark over glabella. The operator was a woman of the Chetti caste, a travelling tattooer, and the cost of the operation 2 pies.

[515] [789] (4) One gold kadukkan in each ear. Two copper rings on ring finger of right hand. Washing the face with a hand wearing a copper ring removes black spots on the face, and prevents them coming. So said the wearer.

(5) Two amulets, silver cylindrical cases containing mantrams, worn on a string round the waist to keep off fever and devils. Amulet cases are often worn on the waist in the way of ornament pure and simple.

163 *564 *Prolificness.*—In 12 families the children born were 29 males and 34 females, or an average of 5·2 children to each family.

141 The average weight of 4 individuals was 119¼ lb.

The names of some of those examined.

Taravâd.	Name.	Occupation.	Age.
551 Blathâdi	Govindan	Cultivator	40
*564 Râvâri Chandil ...	Kêlu	Do.	22
Palôli	Kunju	Do.	25
463 Murikolipôil ...	Shangaran	Trader	21
115 Kuttadath ...	Krishnan	Writer	20
Thaikandi ...	Appu	Cooly	26
Thazhathadathil ...	Châthu	Do.	24
Erankulangara ...	Kittan	Milk seller	25
Vêlashêri	Cherukoman	Cultivator	40
Chêlattumal ...	Kunhunni	Cooly	44
Patavetti	Châthukutti	Cultivator	62

6:Fawcett G-5 (ca. 1900)1915
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*301 *564 Copper sheet on which the charm was inscribed in a silver cylindrical case. Copper ring on ring-finger, right hand.

(2) Two copper rings on the ring-finger, right hand. Belongs to the Ellenkiria, so wore no earrings.

(3) Brass ring, ring-finger, right hand. Also of the Ellenkiria.

(4) Copper ring, ring-finger, right hand. Gold earrings of the ordinary pattern.

(5) The ordinary gold earrings. Silver string round the waist; not exclusively ornamental. He fastened his loin cloth to it.

*163 *564 *Vital Statistics* were noted in but two cases. In one family there were two brothers and three sisters; in another, one brother and two sisters.

Names, etc., of a few Taravâd.	Name.	Occupation.	Age.
115 *564 Puthen Vîtil	Krishnan	Cultivator	52
Paritbil	Achutan	Do.	27
613 Malabîtil	Sivarâman	Do.	22
Cholale	Râman	Do.	20
551 Muthira	Narrâyanan	Teacher	26
463 Kanakath	Kunhi Krishnan * ...	Unemployed ...	22
Mannareth	Shangaran	Trader	30
Kûmbiyal	Kannan	Peon	25
Othianmâdattil ...	Gôvindan	Do.	33

NAMBIYÂR NÂYARS.

553 *564 Men of this clan affix Nambiyâr to their name. Thus, Gôvindan Nambiyâr, Kêlu Nambiyâr.

Ages ranging between 20 and 40.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Averages of 22.	To stature = 100.
141 *564 Stature	177·1	155·7	165·1	...
Height, sitting	89·3	80·0	84·2	51·0
Do. kneeling	129·8	115·0	122·0	73·9
Span	188·0	166·5	175·3	106·2
Chest	84·0	75·0	80·3	48·6
Shoulders	42·8	37·8	40·0	424·2
Left cubit	50·5	43·6	46·0	27·9

* This individual had 'Menon' instead of Nâyar after his name, he having been invested with the distinction by the Zamorin.

6:Fawcett G-5 (ca. 1900)1915
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one occasion he was frightened when near water, and subsequently was troubled by beings called Pûtams, devils of a very inferior kind which haunt water. He had bad dreams, so consulted a Mâppila priest (a Musalian —a priest of sorts) who gave him the mantrams. Wore also a charm—"to entice the public" as he explained, so that people will, as a rule, like him, please him, flatter rather than annoy him. He got this too from a Mâppila priest—a Mullah.

(3) Aged 24. This man had travelled. At Dvâraka the city of Krishna, the ninth incarnation of Vishnu (in the Kulluva peninsula), a chank above and a chakkra below had been branded on his left upper arm, on his right, a chank above and a lotus below. Each forearm bore the branded mark of an indistinct seal said to represent Krishna, testifying to a visit to the temple at Dharnidara. Had been to Benares and worshipped his ancestors at Gaya (throwing their ashes into the Ganges), an operation which at once removes all necessity to give them any further attention.

Prolificness.—In 9 families, in respect of which notes were taken, there were born altogether 48 children, 30 male and 18 female, or about 53 children to each family.

Following the rule, or rather custom, which governs all marital connexions amongst the Nâyars, a woman of this clan may be mated with a man of the same clan, or with a man of the Kiriyattil clan, but with no other clan. Consequently, a man of this clan cannot be mated with a Kiriyattil woman, for the woman can never mate with one who is not at least her equal.

Names of some of those examined.

Taravâd.	Name.	Occupation.	Age.
Kizhâk Vellat ...	Kundu	Cultivator	42
Panôli	Konti	Do.	22
Karuthôdiyil ...	Gôvindan Kutti ...	Head of his family ...	21
Vellât	Gôpâlan	Cultivator	24
Pudieth	Kanaran	Schoolmaster	23
Puttikapureth ...	Kelukkutti Menon* ...	Writer	36
Karumuthil ...	Kandar, *alias* Kunja Panikkar.* ...	Cultivator	70
Pâlat	Râma Panikkar ...	Do.	56
Kâkkât	Gôvindan	Do.	20

* The affix (Panikkar, Menon) is a title, not necessarily but possibly hereditary.

Note.—I find I have noted one man as Viyyâr Purattu Châma, as if Viyyûr is a sub-clan, and that he marries in his own sub-clan; but I am not sure whether the Purattu Châmas are so sub-divided, and think not.

The hair on the person of a youth aged 20 (No. 1 above) was noted thus—

(*a*) On the head very plentiful, black, glossy and wavy; treated with gingelly oil. Sprouting on the lip and chin. A small patch of moderate thickness on the sternum; slight on the arms; moderate on the legs.

Another, aged 25—

(*b*) On the head very thick, and approaching the outer edge of the eyebrows. Thick on the chest and mid line of abdomen, although these parts have been shaved recently, as also the arm pits. Thick hair in the small of the back. Slight growth on the back. Moderate on the arms; thick on the legs.

The individual (*a*) said he shaved any day of the week, and any day of the month. He was the Kârnavan of his Taravâd: a very youthful one.

Colour of the skin.—The fairest was between 33 and 40 (Broca); the darkest was 43 (redder). The average seems to be between 29, 37 and 44.

Colour of the eyes is a light brown. The actual numbers are—

Of colour type No.	1	(Broca)	5	individuals.	
„ „ „	1 to 2	„	6	„	
„ „ „	2	„	7	„	
„ „ „	2 to 3	„	5	„	

(Two were not included.) So that, although the eyes of rather more than one-fifth were dark brown, what would ordinarily be called black, the remainder were distinctly lighter in colour; and the number of persons whose eyes might be called quite a light brown, equalled those whose eyes were nearly black.

Weight of but 3 was recorded. The average is 105½ lb.

Prolificness.—In the 8 recorded instances the average number of children in each family was 3·7. It will be remembered that this clan is perhaps most of all under process of intermixture, its women mating with men of several higher clans (their own included) and with Nambûtiris.

Ornaments.—Ears are always pierced, and the usual Malabar earrings—kadukkans—are worn; sometimes as many as four in each ear. Individuals were noted thus—

(1) Aged 24. Circular patch of sandalwood paste, 1·8 cms. in diameter over the glabella. Two stripes of sandalwood paste on each upper arm. No ornaments,

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182 1.13 These, broadly, are the inter-relationship between physical features and economic aspects of the State, and largely determine the nature and structure of the Kerala economy discussed below.

Density of Population

161 [164] 1.14 In the ultimate analysis, the basic problem of Kerala, viz., an inordinately large section of the population being without any gainful work, is brought about by the very high density of population in the State. With an area only 1.2 per cent of the whole of India, Kerala has to support 3.8 per cent (16.8 million) of the total population of India. The density of population in Kerala (1,125 persons per sq. mile) is naturally over three times the all-India average (384 persons per sq. mile).

1.15 The population, however, is not evenly spread out over the whole of the State, but shows considerable variations from district to district (Table 2).* The highland, being mostly covered with forests, is sparsely populated. The average density here is only about 150 persons per square mile. On the other hand, the lowlands bear the severest burden of population. With only about 18 per cent of the State area, they support over 40 per cent of the population. On the other extreme is the coastal strip where the average density is over 2,500 persons per square mile. In certain pockets it even shoots up to 7,000 persons per square mile. The midland, though thickly populated, is not as congested as the area lying in the immediate vicinity of the sea coast.

Growth of Population

1.16 Not only is the density of population high in Kerala, but its rate of growth has also been fairly high. The following table gives the rate of growth of population over the last half century both for India as well as for Kerala.

DECENNIAL PERCENTAGE VARIATION IN POPULATION

Year	India	Kerala
1901-11	5.69	1.75
1911-21	—0.31	9.16
1921-31	11.00	21.85
1931-41	14.23	16.04
1941-51	13.34	22.82
1951-61	21.49	24.55

Source: 1961 Census of Population Provisional Figures.

1.17 As can be seen, the population has grown much faster in Kerala than in the country as a whole during the last six decades. The basic reason for a faster [165] rate of growth of population in Kerala is a comparatively low death rate while the [163] birth rate is only slightly less than the all-India one. The comparative position of birth and death rates in India and Kerala is given in the following table.

* [see p. 270, category 116 -- Analyst]

[text continues on p. 8]

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COMPARATIVE POSITION OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

		Average birth rate per year per 1,000 persons	*Average death rate per year per 1,000 persons*
1941-51	All-India	41.3	24.9
	Kerala	38.2	19.9
1951-56	All-India	41	25
	Kerala	38	17

SOURCE: NCEAR calculations based on Census data and corrected birth and death registration data.

1.18 In fact comparative data for the different States shows that the death rate in Kerala is the lowest in the whole of India. The death rate is lowest in Kerala, presumably because of the generally high standard of hygiene of the people of this area. The erstwhile States of Travancore and Cochin had long followed a progressive policy in the field of providing public amenities such as medical facilities, sanitation, etc. Since the standards of literacy as well as the average level of intelligence are fairly high in Kerala, with a more vigorous family planning programme it should be possible to bring down the birth rate within a shorter span of time than in many other parts of India.

Rural-Urban Breakdown

1.19 Only 13.5 per cent of Kerala's population lived in urban areas against 17.38 per cent of all-India, according to the Census of 1951. This difference seems to have narrowed down during the last decade, the proportion of urban population in Kerala having risen to 15.03 per cent by 1961, while it rose to only 17.84 per cent for the whole of India.[1]

1.20 The villages in Kerala are unique in size. According to the Census of 1951 as high as 13 per cent of villages had a population exceeding 5,000 persons against only 0.38 per cent of such villages in the whole of India. However, there are some redeeming features which prevent the countryside from presenting an appearance of over-congestion. The villages in Kerala are of a different type than is usual in the rest of India. The homesteads are generally not clustered together but are dotted almost all over the countryside. This spread out of population keeps living conditions healthy and clean in the rural areas.

STATE INCOME, OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AND LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

1.21 The State income of Kerala in 1955-56 has been estimated at Rs. 351.6 crores[2] at the current prices (Table 3). This is roughly 3.4 per cent of the National Income of India (Rs. 9,980 crores) for the same year. For an area which is only

[1] It may be noted that this is only a broad conclusion as the definitions of urban areas in Census of 1951 and of 1961 are not identical.

[2] *See* Appendix 2 for details.

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163 There are 440 houses in the "town," and more than double that
[361] number in the whole village. The statistics of births and deaths
165 are kept separate for the part of the village outside the town and the town; they stand thus for the last five years:—

Years.	Village.									Town.								
	Births.				Deaths.					Births.				Deaths.				
	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	Total.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	Total.	Infants.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	Total.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	Total.	Infants.
1910-11	93	10	23	126	60	8	5	73	33	86	17	23	126	54	21	5	80	39
1911-12	75	6	29	110	71	6	24	101	38	86	34	23	143	83	17	19	119	57
1912-13	40	7	7	54	33	4	6	43	17	72	24	17	113	66	13	18	97	48
1913-14	50	5	6	61	43	2	5	50	17	66	22	23	111	64	8	24	56	37
1914-15	35	3	4	42	20	...	6	26	6	49	27	17	93	29	6	12	47	15

"Infants" include all under the age of three.

The figures for the "town" can be taken as fairly accurate while those of the village cannot be relied on; for the village officers rarely take the trouble of entering the latter correctly, while every dweller in "town" is made to tender accounts of births and deaths on penalty, and these are also within the close purview of the village officers. Note especially the rate of infant mortality in both the town and village. Nearly 50 per cent of the deaths
[361] occur among the infants.* Muhammadans and Christians, who are invariably engaged in petty trade, are more numerous in the "town" than in the "village."

566 *Paracheri.*—The Pulayas (Cherumas and Paraiyas) in the State and of Malabar form a category by themselves. The State made an enquiry into their social and economic condition last year which I here utilize. There are nearly 300 Pulayas in the village. They are more or less serfs attached to the soil. They are agricultural workers only, and have no sort of proprietorship in the land.
[465] They are paid daily wages in kind and that in very low measures. The following is the daily rate:—Men 2 edangalis † of paddy per day; women 1½ edangalis of paddy, boys 1 edangali. In addition, 5 edangalis of paddy are given to men and 4 edangalis to women on certain festive days in the year, and once a year every male and female member of the family is presented with a pair of
566 cloths ‡ 2 yards and 3½ yards respectively by the master. The
162 men plough, tend cattle, water the gardens, gather fuel, etc., while the women pluck the paddy seedlings to replant them, and do

* [The figures show an average infantile death-rate of 284 per 1,000 births for the area outside the "town," and of 336 for the "town"—Ed.]

[804] † 10 Cochin edangalis = 1 para = 8 Madras measures. [Therefore 1 edangali of paddy weighs 2 lb.—Ed.].

‡ These cloths are nearly one yard wide.

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423 his neighbour seeing the improvements resorts to bribery in order to get the land.

242 Further this system results in the disregard of agricultural principles. Supposing only ten coconut palms should be planted in a certain portion of land, the possessor actually plants fifteen or sixteen because at the end of twelve years he will get the value of fifteen or sixteen trees according to the Tenants Improvements Act. If he is content with planting only ten according to agricultural principles, he gets only the value of ten. For many years past there has been no attempt towards scientific cultivation, as a consequence of this, in the whole of Malabar. It is impossible to do so. Disregard of science means gain; regard for it means loss. There is an evident deterioration in the production of the land in Malabar due to absence of security, and disregard of science. Lands which brought a gain of Rs. 1,000 do not now bring even Rs. 400 or Rs. 500. An improvement in this system of land tenure by means of legislation would evidently increase the fertility of Malabar.

Population.—Total population 7,596.*

162 Castes and individuals in each caste—

Name of caste.	Families.	Members.
Nambudri or Malabar Brahmans	36	146
East Coast Brahmans or Brahmans who have emigrated to Malabar from the east ...	107	653
Nayars and their sub-sects	382	1,305
Tiyyas and their sub-sects	437	2,461
Muhammadans	331	2,307
Christians	118	592
Artisan castes, etc.	17	117
Total ...	1,428	7,581

163 Number of children under ten in families—Living 3,490, dead 928.

165 Number of homesteads—1,290.

	1915.	
	Births.	Deaths.
Boys	178	76
Girls	158	80
Total ...	336*	156*

165 The following table of deaths may be useful:—

Children between ages	0—10	87*
Between ages	10—20	2
,,	21—25	8
,,	26—30	8
,,	31—35	6
,,	36—40	4

Birth-rate ... ... 44·2 per thousand
Death-rate ... ... 20·5 ,,
Death-rate for children 0—10 ... 259 per thousand births.
Density of population ... ... 3.231 per square mile.—Ed.]

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The statistics of births and deaths of this desam are obtainable only for the year 1915. They are given below :—

Births.

Males	... ...	50	Hindu	... ...	84
Females	... ...	43	Muhammadan	...	9
		93			93

Deaths.

According to age—

Lifeless deliveries	7
Below one year	9
Between 1 and 10	13
„ 10 and 20	1
„ 20 and 30	7
„ 30 and 40	3
„ 40 and 50	...
„ 50 and 60	3
„ 60 and 80	5
	48

According to sex and castes—

Males	24	Hindus ...	43
Females	24	Muhammadans ...	5

There is no paracheri in the strict sense of the term. The depressed classes, mostly Cherumas, are still in a state of semi-serfdom, depending for everything on their landlords and masters.

Land.—The area of the desam by settlement is 1,803·40 acres. This desam together with Mattupalli, Peringode, Pillakkattiri, Tolukad, Mathur, Alikara, Kuttanad, Perumannur and Chalisseri desams formed the old revenue amsam of Kothachira. Now Kothachira revenue amsam includes only Kothachira, Mathur and Peringode desams.

The areas under each description of land—

——	Wet.	Garden.	Occupied dry.	Unoccupied dry.	Unassessed.	Inam.	Poramboke.	Total.
	ACS. C.	ACS. C.	ACS. C.	ACS. C.	ACS. C.			ACS. C.
Private Jenmi.	445 27	209 43	197 16	935 71	..	...	...	1,787 57
Government Jenmi.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unregistered lands.	...	...	...	...	15 83	...	...	15 83
	445 27	209 43	197 16	935 71	15 83	..	...	1,803 40

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perform priestly functions for the lowest classes. There are also in the village a few families of Ambalavasis (about 35 persons) who rank above the Nayars and perform menial and other functions in temples, and also practise Ayurvedic medicine. 162

Births and deaths.—The village register gives the following statistics of births and deaths for the year 1915 (as far as I could ascertain, a normal year). 163

Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hindus	37	41	78
Muhammadans	2	1	3
	39	42	81

Deaths. 165

Below 1 year	8	2	10
Between 1 and 5	1	4	5
„ 5 and 10	4	1	5
„ 15 and 20	2	1	3
„ 30 and 40	2	2	4
„ 40 and 50	3	...	3
„ 50 and 60	2	2	4
Above 60	3	4	7
	25	16	41

Causes—

	Males.	Females.	
Fever	7	6	Causes are not accurate.
Dysentery and diarrhoea ...	11	6	
Respiratory diseases ...	6	4	
Injuries	1	...	
	25	16	

The figures seem to be fairly accurate, though not quite so. The death rate seems to be too low compared to the birth rate. But the figures are admittedly incomplete as is seen from the remarks made upon the register by the supervising authority. The deficiency is probably in the record of *deaths of young children.*

The causes of this defect are (1) registration not being compulsory; (2) indifference or ignorance of village authorities and of villagers who hardly seem to realize the importance of registration; (3) the villagers' suspicion of registration; they do not know its object.

There is no Paracheri strictly so called as in villages of eastern districts. There are scattered dwellings of depressed classes, Cherumas and Pariahs. There are five families of Pariahs, consisting of 13 men, 13 women and 16 children. Of the men two have gone for work to the Kolar Gold Fields and one to Wynaad. The proportion of children to adults is much smaller among the Cherumas and Pariahs than among the Brahmans and Nayars. 621 [167]